

### IN THE WRITTEN DETAILED DESCRIPTION

Please amend the following paragraphs to conform to the originally filed figures. No new matter is added by the following amendments to the written specification.

*On page 2, lines 5-14:*

Consider a more complex system, residential electrical service may be delivered through "multiple meters." One meter is for "base line" service (see Figure 7 feeder log detail 411a) at, for example \$0.11 per kilowatt hour for the first 600 kilowatt hours, and an increasing amount for each additional 200 kilowatt hours. Another meter is for "interruptible" power (see Figure 7 feeder log detail 411b) at \$0.09 per kilowatt hours. A third meter may be for "time shifted" power (see Figure 7 feeder log detail 411c) at a high rate during daytime hours and a reduced rate for evening and night time use. Finally, there may be a "backwards" meter for "selling back" co-generated power (see Figure 7 feeder log detail 411d). Consumption of the different classes of service is sent to a billing system where it is applied against the customer's plan and billed to the customer.

*On page 2, lines 24-28:*

~~Figure~~ FIGURE 1, captioned as "PRIOR ART" illustrates the flow of billing events from a feeder 41 to a billing system 48. The feeder logs the records sent to the billing system in a feeder log 42, and the billing system logs the records received by the billing system in a billing log 49. To be noted is that the reports generated by the feeder 41 and logged in the feeder log 42 may not match the events received at the billing system 48 and logged in the billing log 49.

*On page 7, lines 4-5:*

FIGURE 2 is a simplified flow chart showing data collection 21, data reconciliation 23, and charge data consolidation (that is, billing) 25.

*On page 8, lines 22-26:*

The target billing systems can be identified in several ways. ~~[[FIR]]~~ For example, the target billing system name could be explicitly specified by the feed in the record created by the feeder to be sent to the various target billing systems. Alternatively, the record could contain some verb that indicates to a processing system which billing target system to use.

*On page 11, lines 5-10:*

The automated reconciliation program will generally run for each feeder and will normally run on a scheduled time that has been set, ~~typically a scheduled time~~ for each individual feeder or set of feeders. However, automated reconciliation may be performed as needed, that is, to ensure that an anomaly is corrected or a problem fixed, or to reconcile feeds outside the normal operating time. Any system scheduler, such as "cron" on UNIX can be used to schedule reconciliations.

*On page 11, lines 12-18:*

FIGURE 3 is a flow chart of the reconciliation process. The reconciliation starts by logging the session start time and retrieving the last session start time (Block 30), and retrieving the logs from the feeder (Block 31) and the interim control points (Block 32). If there is an error at this point, the appropriate notification is issued (Block 34), the session status is logged (Block 39), and the reconciliation process ended. If there is no error, the records are compared (Block 35), checked for unreconciled records (Block 36), and the report prepared (Block 37) and published (Block 38). Session status is logged (Block 39), and the reconciliation process is ended.

*On page 14, line 15 – page 15, line 15:*

FIGURE 4 illustrates a simplified system 40 with a single feeder 41 to a single billing system 48. The feeder is associated to a feeder log 42, and to an interim node 43 with an associated interim log 44. The feeder side of the system is separated from the billing side by a fire wall 45. The billing side includes an interim node 46 with an interim node log 47, and the billing system 48 with an associated billing log 49.

FIGURE 5 illustrates a complex system 50 with multiple feeders 41a-c to a single billing system 48. The feeders are associated to feeder logs 42a-c, and to an interim node 43 with an

associated interim log 44. The feeder side of the system is separated from the billing side by a fire wall 45. The billing side includes an interim node 46 with an interim node log 47, and the billing system 48 with an associated billing log 49.

FIGURE 6 illustrates a still more complex system 60 with multiple feeders 41a-c to multiple billing systems 48a-c. The feeders are associated to feeder logs 42a-c, and to multiple interim nodes 43a-b with multiple associated interim logs 44a-b. The feeder side of the system is separated from the billing side by multiple fire walls. The billing side includes multiple interim nodes 46a-b with multiple interim node logs 47a-b, and the billing systems 48a-c with associated billing logs 49a-c.

FIGURE 7 illustrates a data collection — data reconciliation — billing system 60 applied to an electric power distribution system. The data collection — data reconciliation — billing system 60 has multiple feeders 41a-c, typically "electric meters" to multiple billing systems 48a-c. The feeders 41a-c collect data from the various associated "electric meters" and are associated to feeder logs 42a-c, and to an interim node 43 with an associated interim log 44. The feeder side of the system is separated from the billing side by a fire wall 45. The billing side includes an interim node 46 with an interim node log 47, and the billing systems 48a-c with associated billing logs 49a-c. In a purely deregulated environment the different billing systems could be different generating companies, such as a coal fired company, a gas fired company, a hydroelectric company, and a wind turbine company. Alternatively, the different billing systems could represent different markets or regulatory regimes.